

FL 0  
JB 2

5358

822  
M4/6



LINDSEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

**Tonge's Farm, Norton Disney Quarry  
Norton Disney, Lincs.**

NGR: SK 890 600

Site Code: NDTF 03

LCNCC Museum Accn No.: 2003.31

Lincs. C.C. Planning Application: 66/0360/00/MR

8915 6033

**Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation**

**Report for  
RMC Aggregates**

by

**M. McDaid, R. Pullen, I. Rowlandson, and G. Tann**

**LAS Report No. 736**

**April 2004**

Conservation  
Services

29 APR 2004

Highways & Planning  
Directorate

25 WEST PARADE · LINCOLN · LN1 1NW  
TELEPHONE 01522 544554 · FACSIMILE 01522 522211 · EMAIL las@linarch.co.uk

Lindsey Archaeological Services LLP Registered in England and Wales No. OC304247  
Registered address 25 West Parade · Lincoln · LN1 1NW

VAT Registration No. 819 8029 41

EVENT L14729  
L14730

SOURCE L19284  
L19285

PRN 63111 - ROMAN  
63112 - UNDATED  
63113 - Medieval /  
Postmedieval  
63114 Postmedieval

## Contents

List of Figures	
List of Plates	
Summary	1
Introduction	1
Site Location	1
Planning Background	1
Archaeological Background	2
The Watching Brief	2
The Excavation	5
Discussion	7
Conclusion	8
Acknowledgements	8
References	9
Archive Summary	9
Appendix 1 : Context Summary.	
Appendix 2 : Roman Pottery Report and Archive List, by Barbara Precious	
Appendix 3 : Post-Roman Pottery Archive List, by Jane Young	
Appendix 4 : Tile Archive List, by Jane Young	
Appendix 5 : Environmental Report, by Jane Richardson	
The Figures	
The Plates	

## List of Figures and Plates

### Figures

- Fig.1** Location of Norton Disney (inset c based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map Sheets SK 85 and SK 86).
- Fig. 2** Location of the proposed Tonge's Farm Quarry, showing the position of recorded archaeological features in the vicinity. (Reproduced with minor alterations from OAA 1999. Based on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map Sheets SK 86 SE and SK 85 NE. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 100002165).
- Fig. 3** Location of the areas of the 2003 watching brief and excavation (Rowlandson).
- Fig. 4** Section across the backfilled ditches 158 and 156, on the line of the parish boundary (Rowlandson, after McCarthy).
- Fig. 5** Plan of the excavation area, showing archaeological features (Rowlandson, after McCarthy).
- Fig. 6** Sections across archaeological features within the excavation area (Rowlandson, after Harris, McCarthy and Slater).
- Fig. 7** The Roman Pottery (NDTF 03), quarter actual size (C. Bentley).

### Plates

- Pl. 1** The darker clayier soil marks backfilled modern ditch **160** (looking NW across the field east of Norton Low Wood at the start of topsoil removal).
- Pl. 2** Lime concentration **152,153** east of Norton Low Wood (looking west).
- Pl. 3** At the edge of Norton Low Wood, the parish boundary is marked by an open ditch (looking west).
- Pl. 4** Dark soil marking a recently backfilled ditch **158** along the line of the parish boundary (looking west).
- Pl. 5** Edge of the quarry, NE of Norton Low Wood, showing the backfilled ditches at the parish boundary (looking west).
- Pl. 6** West-east aligned backfilled linear features **154** and **156**, to the north of the Norton Disney parish boundary (looking west, red/white scale 1m).
- Pl. 7** Section across backfilled feature **156** (looking west; horizontal scale 1m, vertical 0.3m).
- Pl. 8** Grey soil fill of ditch **1003**, east of Norton Low Wood (looking west).
- Pl. 9** Position of ditch **1003**, looking south beside Norton Low Wood.
- Pl. 10** Section excavated across ditch **1003**, showing part of a Roman mortaria in the ditch fill (looking west).
- Pl. 11** Monitored area to the south of Norton Low Wood (looking NW).
- Pl. 12** Stripes of grey soil south of Norton Low Wood are the remains of medieval or post-medieval plough furrows (looking north).
- Pl. 13** Grey soil fill of backfilled ditches and trenches to the south of Norton Low Wood (looking SE).

- PI. 14 Machine-excavated section across backfilled pit **181** (looking west).
- PI. 15 Field to the south of Tonge's Plantation, prior to topsoil removal (looking south).
- PI. 16 Curvilinear feature **206**, at the eastern edge of the field to the south of Tonge's Plantation (looking south).
- PI. 17 Second field south of Tonge's Plantation, after topsoil removal (looking NW).
- PI. 18 Path through Tonge's Plantation stripped for the quarry conveyor (looking east).
- PI. 19 Location of the excavation area, looking NW towards Norton Low Wood.
- PI. 20 Northern end of the excavation area, pre-excavation, looking north.
- PI. 21 Dark fill of *Ditches 3 and 1* after topsoil stripping (looking north).
- PI. 22 Southern terminal of *Ditch 1*, segment **1035**, looking NE. Horizontal scale 1m.
- PI. 23 *Ditch 1*, segment **1039**, looking east. Scale 1m.
- PI. 24 *Ditch 2*, segment **1009**, looking east. Scales 1m and 2m.
- PI. 25 *Ditch 3*, segment **1041**, looking east.
- PI. 26 *Ditch 6*, segment **1008**, looking east. Scales 1m and 2m.
- PI. 27 *Ditch 6*, segment **1047**, looking west. Horizontal scale 2m.
- PI. 28 Fragments of bone, possibly human, were found on the surface at **1025** but no graves were identified. (Looking north. Horizontal scale 2m).

# **Tonge's Farm, Norton Disney Quarry, Norton Disney, Lincs. Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation**

NGR: SK 890 600

Site Code: NDTF 03

LCNCC Museum Accn No.:2003.31

Lincs. C.C. Planning Application: 66/0360/00/MR

## **Summary**

*Part of a Romano-British enclosure was identified to the east of Norton Low Wood, and these features were examined in a subsequent excavation. This showed that the enclosure had been divided into at least three areas, one of which may have contained graves. The enclosure ditches contained first and second century AD pottery, suggesting a military association with the site.*

*The watching brief also recorded evidence of ridge and furrow to the south of the wood, and an undated backfilled ditch was identified on the line of the Norton Disney/Collingham parish boundary. No other significant archaeological features were found.*

## **Introduction**

Lindsey Archaeological Services (LAS) was commissioned by RMC Aggregates in January 2003 to undertake an archaeological watching brief during further phases of topsoil and overburden removal at Norton Disney, Lincs. (Figs 1 and 2). This work was in preparation for extension of the Tonge's Farm sand and gravel quarry.

Monitoring began on January 28th 2003, and part of a Romano-British occupation site was identified shortly afterwards. A small archaeological excavation undertaken on that area by a team of four archaeologists in January/February 2003, at the request of the County Archaeological Officer, recorded part of an Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure. Subsequently, additional areas have been stripped of topsoil and overburden as the quarry is extended. This report relates to both the watching briefs maintained between January and November 2003, and the excavation in January/February 2003 (Fig. 3).

## **Site Location and Description**

Norton Disney Quarry is situated close to the border between Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, NE of the village of Norton Disney. The Tonge's Farm area of the quarry extension lies to the west of Butt Lane and consists of 48ha of agricultural land. At the time of the watching brief, the monitored areas were farmland, at about 15m OD.

## **Planning Background**

Planning permission was granted for extension of the existing gravel quarry at Tonge's Farm, with a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping and removal of overburden.

## **Archaeological Background**

Aerial photographs taken in August 1959 show several cropmarks of linear and pit-like features (RAF verticals 543/673–2114–53–58). Most are probably of geological or glacial origin, but some appear to be of archaeological interest, suggesting enclosures similar to known examples c.1km to the west. An archaeological evaluation in September 2000 of land to the SW of Tonge's Plantation, which had produced cropmarks, found nothing dating to before the medieval period (Armour-Chelu 2000).

Although the site lies 2km from the Fosse Way Roman road, and 2.5km east of the Norton Disney Roman villa, few other Roman finds have been reported from the vicinity. Single Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flint and stone tools have been found at Norton Boscombe, Aubourn, Potter Hill and Bassingham.

## **The Watching Brief (Fig. 3)**

### ***Method***

Topsoil stripping was undertaken using a 360° machine equipped with a 1.6m wide flat-bladed ditching bucket, except where a bulldozer was used to clear below overhead electricity cables.

### ***East of Norton Low Wood***

Topsoil stripping of this area began on January 28th 2003. By arrangement with the Quarry Manager, no vehicles were permitted onto stripped ground until archaeological inspection had occurred; initial visits were made by D. Young and G. Tann. Much of the area east of Norton Low Wood contained no recognisable archaeological features, although a series of post-medieval field boundary ditches and land drains were seen (including **148**, **150** and **160**) (Pl. 1). A large pit **152** contained lime in its upper fill **153**, together with twentieth century material (Pl. 2). This was interpreted as a cattle burial pit, and was not investigated.

One priority of this watching brief was to examine the line of the Norton Disney/Collingham parish boundary (which crossed the northern part of the quarry extension), and check whether any archaeological features coincided with it. To the west, the parish boundary forms the northern limit of Norton Low Wood (as a 3m wide, 1.2m deep open ditch), and continues to the western end of Norton Wood as a straight alignment (Pl. 3). East of the quarry extension, the parish boundary continues on a slightly curving line to the River Witham at Bassingham. The line of the parish boundary across the monitored area is shown on maps until recently as a field boundary, and a backfilled feature **158** was found along its course (Pl. 4). Within the backfill **159** was a black plastic land drain pipe, which had been laid at the bottom of the feature, probably after fresh excavation or complete mechanical cleaning of an existing open ditch (Pl. 5). This ditch contained nothing other than modern material.

The drain pipe was found to be a successor to another broader and slightly shallower feature **156** immediately to the north, which was not evident on the stripped surface. The east/west orientated ditch had a surviving width of 2.50m (but was probably c.5m before truncation) and was 1.10m deep

(Fig. 4). It appeared that the earlier feature **156** had become silted, and was recut along the later course. No dating material could be found in the fill of the earlier feature.

To the north of the parish boundary, two parallel west-east aligned ditches were identified, each terminating about 10m east of the western side of the field (Pl. 6). Ditch **148** lay about 18m north of **158**, and was 2m wide. It was shallow, 0.3m deep with a flat base except in the centre where it dipped to 0.4m (Pl. 7). The second ditch **154** lay 7m to the north, and was 1.5m wide. Neither ditch was traced across the full width of the stripped area, and no dating material was found. Their alignment was similar to that of the parish boundary, but as that feature could be of considerable antiquity, the two short ditches cannot be dated.

Alongside the wood, a 0.35m wide west-east aligned ditch **1003** contained large sherds of Roman mortaria, and further along this feature a concentration of sherds from a single vessel was seen (Pls. 8-10). After rapid excavation of a section across this feature, to establish its profile, arrangements were made to topsoil strip the adjacent area with an archaeologist in attendance. This exercise revealed further small ditches of different periods, and fragmentary remains of bones. Once cleared of topsoil, this area became the subject of an archaeological excavation, which identified the NE corner of a Romano-British enclosure (see below). All finds from the watching brief within the enclosure area were amalgamated with those recovered during the excavation.

The ditch along the parish boundary, and the Romano-British enclosure, were the only features of archaeological interest identified to the east and SE of Norton Low Wood. Several land drains and field ditches of post-medieval or modern date were seen to the west of the wood and west of Killbuck Plantation, but no earlier artefacts were found. A fairly recently backfilled 2.5m wide ditch **160** continued the line of the existing deep ditch along the southern edge of the wood; this ditch appears to post-date the 1840 Tithe Map.

#### ***South of Norton Low Wood*** (Pl. 11)

Topsoil removal was conducted between August 15th and 21st 2003, and three monitoring visits were made by Geoff Tann and Richard Pullen. The topsoil was 0.35m thick, and in most places directly overlay the sand and gravel deposits.

Seven parallel linear features **167-173** were observed, aligned roughly north-south across the stripped area (Pl. 12). They varied in width from 0.9m to 1.3m, and were at a consistent spacing of 8m. All the features had a grey sandy fill **174-180**. They were interpreted as furrows of medieval and later ploughing. The sub-divisions within Norton Low Wood are not on this alignment, but the 1840 Norton Tithe Map shows field divisions south of the wood which are probably contemporary.

A cluster of irregular sized pits **181, 183, 185, 187, and 189** was observed close to the southern side of Norton Low Wood. Most of these were rectangular, and shared a common west-east alignment. No

dating material was seen on the surface, so a 2m wide slot was excavated by machine across the largest pit **185**. The 14m x 6m pit was 1.35m deep, with almost vertical sides and a flat base. The section demonstrated that the multiple layers of black soil and sandy gravel **186** were almost horizontally laid (Pls. 13 and 14). No finds were seen in the upper part of the fill, and the excavated trench was too deep for safe access. Large pieces of branch were excavated from the lower part of the pit. All the pits were interpreted as modern.

A 1m wide curvilinear ditch **183** passed parallel to, and 9m to the north of, **185**. A short right-angled return to the south was seen NW of the pit, and the ditch curved past the NE corner of the pit at an oblique angle. It was obviously associated with a similar 1m wide ditch **193** which was 1m to its east at that point. The latter ditch curved to the north, but could not be traced far. The two narrow ditches did not seem to be of great antiquity, and their contemporaneity with the machine-excavated pits was proved by the presence of pit **189** which had been dug alongside ditch **193**. No other features were seen in this area.

#### ***South of Tonge's Plantation***

In the field closest to the plantation, topsoil removal was conducted between June 30th and July 18th 2003, and seven monitoring visits were made by Richard Pullen (Pl. 15).

The topsoil **200** was a dark grey/brown sandy silt, with a depth of 0.4m. As a result of modern deep ploughing, no discernible subsoil layer had survived, and the topsoil directly sealed orange/brown sand and gravel **201**.

Features were observed cutting into the natural geology, but all produced twentieth century material. Land drain **202**, aligned NW-SE, contained a ceramic jar lid, with a printed description indicating that it had held Areca Nut Toothpaste, sold by W. Woods of Plymouth (one of the most successful toothpaste brands in Victorian and Edwardian England). Land drain **204**, aligned west-east, contained a Lucozade type bottle stopper, a fine stem fragment from a clay tobacco pipe, and part of a glass wine bottle.

At the eastern edge of this field, a 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep, curving ditch **206** was seen. The feature was aligned north-south, but curved towards the hedge boundary near the southern end of the field (Pl. 16). This ditch produced sherds of twentieth century pottery, which were discarded.

Eleven pits **209 - 229**, each of similar size, were located, arranged north-south across the NW end of monitored area, at 45° to Butts Lane. A crushed modern tin can was recovered from the fill of **208**. The archaeologist was told that pits had been excavated on the farm as practice in operating a JCB.

Part of the second field south of Tonge's Plantation was stripped of topsoil between October and November 2003 (Pl. 17). Monitoring visits were made by Geoff Tann and Richard Pullen. Cropmarks



of archaeological features, including ditches and ring-ditches/enclosures, have been identified in this field (Griffiths, Johnson and Collcutt 1999).

At the NW corner of this field, immediately east of an existing topsoil bund, two narrow west-east aligned features **231** and **233** were seen beside the northern field boundary hedge. Ditch **231** was 0.5m wide, and was 3.5m north of the 0.6m wide **233**. Both ditches were almost parallel to the hedge, and could not be seen in the field to the north. The arrangement indicates that these may have been a precursor to the boundary, or land drains. Ditch **235**, aligned north-south and 1.1m wide, entered the unstripped area beside the hedge at the eastern end of the two features. All were assumed to be post-medieval features.

The remainder of this field was not stripped as part of the season's operations, and none of the recorded cropmark features have yet been affected. No archaeological finds were seen in this field.

#### ***Conveyor course***

A 4m wide path was stripped of topsoil through Tonge's Plantation and the field to its east, in preparation for the construction of a conveyor to transport quarried material to the existing quarry plant to the west of Butt Lane. As was expected, the ground within the plantation had been badly disturbed by tree root systems, other vegetation, and animal burrows. The only probably artificial feature seen within Tonge's Plantation was a north-south aligned backfilled ditch **237**, about 1.3m wide, with slight indications of a bank to the east (Pl. 18). This was not associated with any dating material. The ditch probably equates to a field boundary shown on the 1840 Norton Disney Tithe Map, which is one of several linear boundaries apparently associated with Tonge's Farm (LAO Norton Disney Par 4). It is probably of post-medieval date; land units to the south with less regular boundaries may be medieval.

#### ***Replacement Access Roads***

Topsoil stripping was also undertaken for replacement access roads linking Butts Lane with the house and outbuildings at Tonge's Farm. Parts of these works were also monitored, but no archaeological remains were seen.

### **The Excavation** (Figs. 5 and 6)

#### ***Site Preparation***

After the ditch containing the *mortarium* had been identified, further topsoil stripping close to Norton Low Wood was suspended until a strategy for the examination of the site had been agreed with the quarry operators and the Lincolnshire County Council Archaeological Officer. The topsoil stripping method was changed in the vicinity, with no further movements of dumper vehicles across the stubble surface. Topsoil was stripped in the same way, and under close archaeological supervision, but stored on a parallel spoil heap (which was repeatedly moved further east until no further significant features were evident). This approach reduced damage to underlying shallow features which might have been caused by wheel ruts through the topsoil.

The topsoil stripping revealed a limited number of intercutting small ditches, some with Roman pottery visible in their fills. The ditch which contained the mortaria was seen to be the northernmost feature of the complex, apparently forming the northern and eastern sides of an enclosure. Some ditches extended east of that defined boundary, but these appeared to be of later date.

The Council Archaeological Officer asked for an area excavation of the visible enclosure and immediately adjacent features. This was conducted under the site direction of Phil Chervasse.

### ***Recording System***

Sections were excavated by hand across the ditches in order to recover information as to their relationships and form, and to retrieve dating and environmental material from their fills. In order to separate material from the features until the arrangement and sequence was established, a series of segments were excavated, where unique context numbers were assigned. Subsequently it proved possible to determine the course of each feature, and the appropriate component contexts were united. This excavation technique has produced numerous context numbers which relate to the same archaeological event.

LAS operates a standard context recording system, developed by its staff over the past 20 years based on MOLAS and CAS models. A full written (single context) and photographic record was made of the site, including site plans at a scale of 1:20 and 1:50, as appropriate, and section drawings at 1:10. A temporary bench mark (16.14m O.D.) was subsequently related to Ordnance Datum. A full photographic record, in colour print, 35mm format, was made of principal features together with general site shots.

### **Geological/Natural Features**

The natural geology was a pale grey sand mixed with brown orange gravels, **1002**.

### **Roman**

A c.61m long enclosure ditch, *Ditch 1*, (**1003/ 1006/ 1012/ 1013/ 1018/ 1023/ 1032/ 1035/ 1039/ 1052/ 1057**), was orientated NE-SW, turning NW-SE at its northern limit. The 0.80m wide, and up to 0.38m deep, ditch had a fill of mid to dark grey brown silt sand (**1004/ 1005/ 1011/ 1014/ 1017/ 1024/ 1031/ 1036/ 1040/ 1053/ 1058**). The fill produced a brick which could have been either Roman or post-medieval in date.

The area enclosed by *Ditch 1* was subdivided by two NW-SE orientated ditches, *Ditch 2* (**1009/ 1016/ 1044/ 1099**) which was 0.62m wide and 0.25m deep, and *Ditch 3* (**1041/ 1050**), which was 0.70m wide and 0.17m deep. Their fills were a grey brown silt sand (**1010/1015/ 1042/ 1043/ 1051**). The internal partitioned areas differed considerably in size within the excavation area; all extended further to the west. *Ditch 2* was the northernmost of the dividing ditches, and created a zone whose area was

c.73m<sup>2</sup> (exposed), whilst *Ditch 3* partitioned an area c.265m<sup>2</sup> to the north and c.193m<sup>2</sup> to the south. The southern zone had no south boundary ditch.

Within the smaller northern division were two possible graves **1025** and **1028**, both aligned NW-SE, 1.40m and 2m long, filled by brown grey silt sand, **1026** and **1027**. **1026** contained a Roman brick fragment as well as fragments of possible human bone. The bone was so poorly preserved that no clear identification could be made. Truncation of these features, which were generally no deeper than 0.10m, meant no articulated bone remained. Given that **1025** is an 'L' shape there is a possibility that it may not have been one but two graves. Feature **1025** cut *Ditch 1* (**1057/ 1058**).

Running parallel to *Ditch 1*, c.4m to the east, was 0.95m wide, 0.35m deep, *Ditch 4* (**1022/ 1034 /1038**) filled by a grey brown silt sand, **1021/ 1033/ 1037**.

Cutting *Ditch 1* at its NW limit was 0.18m deep *Ditch 5* (**1049**) filled by a light to mid grey brown silt sand, **1048**. In turn **1049** was cut by ditch **1055**, whose full length and width could not be determined, filled by 0.20m deep grey brown silt sand, **1054**. Ditch **1055** contained fill **1054**, a mid grey brown silty sand.

### Medieval

The subsoil was a light to mid grown grey sand silt, **1001**, up to 0.15m in depth.

### Post Medieval

*Ditch 6* (**1008/ 1030/ 1047**) 1.65m wide and 0.41m deep, and *Ditch 7* (**1020**), 1.80m wide, 0.35m deep, and c. 48m to the south of *Ditch 6*, would appear to be part of the same drainage system. Both were aligned ENE-WSW, were over 24m in length, and had similar profiles - evenly sloping sides and a concave base. *Ditch 6* had a grey brown silt sand upper fill, **1007/ 1029/ 1045**, which produced pottery with a 17th-20th century date range and three pieces of medieval tile, and a brown grey sand lower fill, **1046**. *Ditch 7* had a single fill, **1019**, also grey brown silt sand containing a Roman or medieval piece of tile.

### Modern (Pl. 12 and 13)

Topsoil **1000** was 0.35m thick dark grey sand silt.

## Discussion

The enclosure at Tonge's farm was an unexpected find, and had not been identified from air photographs. Pottery from the main enclosure, *Ditch 1*, is late 1st to a probable early 2nd century in date. The majority of the sherds come from greyware vessels, and some of the rusticated wares are sometimes associated with military usage. The presence of military pottery suggests that the enclosure may be associated with or very close to a Roman army encampment.

The mortarium recovered from the enclosure was sooted, which is very unusual as this type of vessel was not used for cooking, suggesting the burning may be the result of ritual activity, possibly associated with cremation. Severe truncation of the site by recent ploughing has meant that no internal features, such as postholes, survived. The possible graves were almost completely removed, having an average depth of 0.05m and bone was so poorly preserved that no identification of the bone type could be made. However, inhumations in the 1st -2nd century are quite rare, and the preferred means of burial was cremation, suggesting that if **1025** and **1028** are graves they may not be contemporary with the enclosure.

The enclosure may represent part of a short lived military presence during the initial occupation of the area (the Fosse Way (Margary ref. 5f) was active from the 1st century (Margary 1973, 219-221). The possibility that Butt Lane was a tributary of the Fosse Way cannot be ruled out (OAA 1999, 19). The enclosure may have been part of the defence of the region, protecting newly established farmsteads east of the Foss Way such as the villa, close to Hill Holt Farm. That site had an intensive phase of development in the Flavian period (contemporary with the activity at Tonge's Farm), with ditches and timber structures, as had the site suggested by the field system at Hall Farm, Bassingham, c.2km from the quarry site (Whitwell 1992, 82; Todd 1991, 96; Oswald 1937). Any encampment would have disbanded once a more settled presence had been established.

Excavation of the area immediately west of the site might confirm whether or not there was Roman military occupation, but that area is currently under woodland.

## **Conclusion**

Although the watching brief demonstrated that significant archaeological remains were present within the area of the quarry extension, very few features were identified. No dating evidence was found from some features, but most of the features within the Romano-British enclosure contained fragments of pottery. It appears that past occupation has been restricted to small habitation sites, and that there has been no spread of ceramic artefacts across surrounding ground. No worked flints were seen.

The Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure was an unexpected site, which had not been recognised from air photographs. An unknown part of the site extends below Norton Low Wood, and although tree-roots will have caused disturbance, further archaeological remains may survive. That area is not designated for future expansion of the quarry.

## **Acknowledgements**

LAS would like to thank RMC Aggregates (Eastern Ltd), in particular Karl Arthurs, for their assistance during the excavation.

The Roman pottery report was prepared by Barbara Precious, Jane Young produced the post-Roman pottery report, and Wendy Booth (Network Archaeology Ltd) undertook the skeletal identification.

Thanks are due to the hard-working site team, namely: Phil Chervasse, Rebecca Harris, Tom McCarthy, and Josh Slater. This report was edited by Geoff Tann and collated by Naomi Field.

Mick McDaid, Richard Pullen M.A. P.I.F.A, Ian Rowlandson M.A., and Geoff Tann  
Lindsey Archaeological Services  
1st April 2004

## References

LAO Norton Disney Par 4 Copy of Norton Disney Tithe Award and map, 1840. Lincolnshire Archives.

Margary, I. D, 1973 *Roman Roads in Britain*.

Oswald, A., 1937 "A Roman fortified villa at Norton Disney, Lincolnshire" in *Antiquaries Journal* 17, 138-78.

OAA 1999 *Land At Tonge's Farm, Norton Disney, Lincolnshire. Environmental Statement, Cultural Heritage Issues*. Oxford Archaeological Associates Limited.

Todd, M., 1991 *The Coritani*.

Whitwell, J.B. 1992 *Roman Lincolnshire: History of Lincolnshire 2*.

[www.antique-bottles-and-glass.co.uk/potlids.htm](http://www.antique-bottles-and-glass.co.uk/potlids.htm)

## Archive Summary

	No. of Sheets	Description
Levels sheets	3	
Environmental sample sheets	1	
Context register sheets	2	
Context sheets	58	
Drawing register sheets	1	
Drawing sheets	8	2 A3 permatrace sheets of section drawings, no. 1-23; 4 A3 permatrace sheets of plan drawings, no. 2,4-6; 2 A2 permatrace sheets of plan drawings, no. 1, 3.
Field sketch plans and sections		
Correspondence		
Archaeological finds		pottery, animal bone
Specialist reports		Roman pottery; post-Roman pottery

Photo record sheets	2	
Photographs		wb: 03/14/12-33; 03/16/15-18; 03/20/2a,4a-36a; 03/24/23-29; 03/29/3-8; 03/78/0-36; 03/90/15-36; 03/95/7a-16a; 03/96/00-9 excavation: 03/22/3a,8a-12a,15-18a; 03/25/23-28,31,35

**APPENDIX 1**

## APPENDIX 1

## Context Summary (NDTF 03)

Context No.	Type	Description
Watching Brief		
148	ditch	field ditch, ?post-medieval
149	fill of 148	?post-medieval
150	ditch	post-medieval
151	fill of 150	post-medieval
152	pit	recent ?animal burial
153	fill of 152	lime upper fill; not investigated
154	ditch	field ditch, ?post-medieval
155	ditch	field ditch, ?post-medieval
156	ditch	backfilled undated ditch cut by 158
157	fill of 156	
158	ditch	backfilled field ditch, modern
159	fill of 158	modern
160	ditch	post-medieval/modern
161	ditch	field ditch, ?post-medieval
162-167	not used	
167	linear cut	medieval plough furrow
168	linear cut	medieval plough furrow
169	linear cut	medieval plough furrow
170	linear cut	medieval plough furrow
171	linear cut	medieval plough furrow
172	linear cut	medieval plough furrow
173	linear cut	medieval plough furrow
174	fill of 167	medieval or post-medieval
175	fill of 168	medieval or post-medieval
176	fill of 169	medieval or post-medieval
177	fill of 170	medieval or post-medieval
178	fill of 171	medieval or post-medieval
179	fill of 172	medieval or post-medieval
180	fill of 173	medieval or post-medieval
181	pit	machine-excavated pit, modern
182	fill of 181	modern



183	pit	machine-excavated pit, modern
184	fill of 183	modern
185	pit	machine-excavated pit, modern
186	fill of 185	modern
187	pit	machine-excavated pit, modern
188	fill of 187	modern
189	pit	machine-excavated pit, modern
190	fill of 189	modern
191	ditch	curvilinear ditch, ?modern
192	fill of 191	modern
193	ditch	modern
194	fill of 193	modern
195 -199	not used	
200	topsoil	
201	natural	sand and gravel
202	land drain	post-medieval
203	fill of 202	?post-medieval
204	land drain	post-medieval
205	fill of 204	?post-medieval
206	ditch	modern
207	fill of 206	modern
208	pit	modern
209	pit	modern
210	pit	modern
211	pit	modern
212	pit	modern
213	pit	modern
214	pit	modern
215	pit	modern
216	pit	modern
217	pit	modern
218	pit	modern
219	fill of 208	modern
220	fill of 209	modern
221	fill of 210	modern
222	fill of 211	modern
223	fill of 212	modern
224	fill of 213	modern
225	fill of 214	modern

226	fill of 215	modern
227	fill of 216	modern
228	fill of 217	modern
229	fill of 218	modern
230	fill of 231	modern
231	ditch	?post-medieval
232	fill of 233	?post-medieval
233	ditch	?post-medieval
234	fill of 235	?post-medieval
235	ditch	?post-medieval
236	fill of 237	?post-medieval
237	ditch	?post-medieval
<b>Excavation</b>		
1000	Layer	Ploughsoil
1001	Layer	Subsoil
1002	Natural	Mixed Natural (mixed gravels)
1003	Cut	Linear Romano-British ditch running E-W, in N-W corner of excavation area
1004	Fill of 1004	Mid greyish brown fine silty sand
1005	Fill of 1006	Dark greyish brown fine silty sand
1006	Cut	N-E Corner of rectilinear ditch
1007	Fill of 1008	Mid greyish brown fine silty sand
1008	Cut	Post Medieval ditch running NE-SW across excavation area
1009	Cut	Linear Romano-British ditch running E-W across excavation area
1010	Fill of 1009	Mid greyish brown fine silty sand
1011	Fill of 1012	Dark greyish brown fine silty sand
1012	Cut	Linear Romano-British ditch running N-S across excavation area
1013	Cut	Linear Romano-British ditch running N-S, located around the centre of the excavation area
1014	Fill of 1013	Dark greyish brown fine silty sand
1015	Fill of 1016	Mid greyish brown fine silty sand
1016	Cut	Linear Romano-British Ditch running E-W across excavation area. At terminus of further ditch running N-S.
1017	Fill of 1018	Mid greyish brown silty sand. Non distinguishable from fill 1015.
1018	Cut	Linear Romano-British Ditch running N-S across excavation

		area. At terminus of further ditch running E-W.
1019	Fill of 1020	Mid greyish brown fine silty sand
1020	Cut	Post medieval Linear ditch, E-W aligned along excavation area.
1021	Fill of 1022	Mid greyish brown fine silty sand
1022	Cut	Linear Romano-British Ditch running N-S across excavation area
1023	Cut	Linear Romano-British Ditch, orientated E-W. Probably a continuation of main enclosure
1024	Fill of 1023	Dark greyish brown fine silty sand
1025	Cut	Irregularly cut large pit, containing disarticulated possible human bone.
1026	Fill of 1025	Mid brownish grey fine silty sand
1027	Fill of 1028	Mid brownish grey fine silty sand
1028	Cut	Irregularly shaped 2.4m long pit
1029	Fill of 1030	Mid greyish brown fine silty sand
1030	Cut	Post Medieval ditch orientated SW-NE. It cuts the roman enclosure, cutting a linear Romano-British ditch running N-S.
1031	Fill of 1032	Dark greyish brown fine silty sand
1032	Cut	Linear Romano-British ditch running N-S. It is cut by a Post Medieval ditch running SW-NE across excavation area.
1033	Fill of 1034	Mid greyish brown fine silty sand
1034	Cut	Probable terminus of Linear Romano-British ditch running N-S, 11m S of intersecting post medieval ditch running SW-NE.
1035	Cut	Terminus of Romano-British rectilinear enclosure ditch, aligned N-S.
1036	Fill of 1035	Dark greyish brown fine silty sand
1037	Fill of 1038	Mid greyish brown fine silty sand. Indistinguishable from Fill 1021.
1038	Cut	An undulating and truncated cut of linear Romano-British ditch running N-S along excavation area.
1039	Cut	Linear Romano-British enclosure ditch running E-W, 0.5m N of Pit 1028
1040	Fill of 1039	Dark greyish brown silty sand
1041	Cut	Linear Romano-British enclosure ditch running E-W.
1042	Fill of 1041	Mid greyish brown fine silty sand
1043	Fill of 1044	Mid greyish brown fine silty sand
1044	Cut	Probable West terminus of Linear Romano-British enclosure ditch running E-W, 1.5m from baulk edge.

1045	Upper Fill of 1047	Mid greyish brown fine silty sand
1046	Lower Fill of 1047	Light- mid greyish brown fine silty sand
1047	Cut	Post medieval linear ditch running SW-NE across excavation site
1048	Fill of 1049	Light- mid greyish brown fine silty sand
1049	Cut	Linear Romano-British Ditch orientated N-S along excavation area. Ditch is at intersection with and is cut by further linear ditch 1055, running E-W across excavation area.
1050	Cut	Linear Romano-British Ditch orientated E-W along excavation area. Ditch is at intersection with another linear ditch 1052, running N-S across excavation area. Both ditches probably contemporary with each other.
1051	Fill of 1050	Dark greyish brown fine silty sand
1052	Cut	Linear Romano-British Ditch orientated N-S along excavation area. Ditch is at intersection with another linear ditch 1050, running E-W across excavation area. Both ditches probably contemporary with each other.
1053	Fill of 1052	Dark greyish brown silty sand
1054	Fill of 1055	Mid greyish brown fine silty sand
1055	Cut	Linear Romano-British Ditch orientated E-W along excavation area. Ditch is at intersection with and cuts another linear ditch 1049 running E-W across excavation area.
1057	Cut	Linear Romano-British ditch running N-S, located around the centre of the excavation area cut by 1025.
1058	Fill of 1057	Dark greyish brown fine silty sand.

**APPENDIX 2**

*Report on the Roman pottery from Tonge's Farm, Norton Disney, Notts.  
(NDTF03) for Lindsey Archaeological Services*

*B J Precious – Late Iron Age and Roman Pottery Consultant*

08/09/03

*The pottery has been recorded to the basic archive level according to the guidelines of the Study Group for Roman Pottery using the computer codes and pottery recording system of the City of Lincoln Archaeology Unit, with sherd count and weight in grams as the measures. The site archive has been collated using Microsoft 95, Excel 5.0 (NDTF.XLS).*

**Introduction and Dating** (see Tables 1 and 2, below)

The site produced 146 sherds weighing 2982 grams of virtually homogenous dating, suggesting that the assemblage was the result of one event. This was further confirmed by the number of joins between the contexts, and demonstrates the inter-relationships between these deposits and the main ditch, Ditch 1. Table 5, below, a list of the illustrations, shows that the sherd joins are not just limited to one vessel, but to several.

The presence of possible burials close to the ditch system, where the pottery was located, may indicate that this is a ritual assemblage. Several of the vessels are heavily sooted on the exterior, but not over the broken edges, indicating that they were used over a relatively fierce heat. One of these vessels is a mortarium (Fig7 No 7 – Context 1004) with a heavily sooted rim and was normally used for grinding ingredients. Another example is a Cream ware flagon, used for pouring liquids, from Context 1014 that is also sooted on the exterior. Both these vessels are rarely used for cooking purposes. These unusually sooted examples may also indicate ritual use or destruction.

*Table 1: Date range of the Roman pottery by context, sherd count, weight, and stratigraphic relationship*

Context	Sherds	Weight	Date range	Stratigraphy	Joins
1004	19	1039	L1-E2	Fill of ditch 1003 – Ditch 1	1011?; 1040; 1048/1054
1010	26	508	L1-E2	Fill of ditch 1009 –subdiv. Ditch	1011; 1043

1011	4	202	L1-E2	Fill of ditch 1012 – Ditch 1	1010; 1004?;1040?;1048/1054?
1014	9	61	1-2C	Fill of ditch 1013 – Ditch 1	1010
1017	2	10	L1-2C	Fill of ditch 1018	
1021	46	690	L1-E2	Fill of ditch 1022 – parallel Ditch 1	
1037	1	12	1-2C	Fill of ditch 1038 – parallel Ditch 1	
1040	10	106	L1-E2	Fill of ditch 1039 – Ditch 1	1004; 1011? ;1048/54
1042	5	104	2C	Fill of ditch 1041 – subdiv. Ditch 1	
1043	4	84	L1-E2	Fill of ditch 1044 – subdiv.1010 Ditch 1	
1048/105	20	166	L1-E2	Fill of ditch 1049/1055 – cuts1004; 1011? ;1040 Ditch 1	
4					
TOTAL	126	2982			

---

Table 2, below, shows that the bulk of the assemblage is dated from the later 1st to the early 2nd century with one context, 1042, broadly dated to the 2nd century. The majority of the vessels consist of forms that were manufactured during the later 1st to the early 2nd century, for example the hook-rimmed mortarium of local origin (Fig 7 No 7). Unfortunately there is no stamp remaining that would have given more precise dating. The rusticated jar (Fig 7 No 1) consisting of fragments from several contexts - 1004,1040, 1011, and 1048/54 - is burnished and decorated with rustication. This type of decoration is used from the 1st to the early, possibly, mid 2nd century, but the everted rim of this vessel suggests an emphasis towards a later 1st century date. The curve-rimmed jar or bowl in a grey fabric with brown surfaces may also belong to this group (Fig7 No 4). The majority of the remaining diagnostic vessels (Fig7 Nos. 2, 3, 5 and 6) are of the same date, but are of native tradition origins.

There is no external dating for the assemblage, for example imported samian ware, but there is an absence of pottery common in mid to late 2nd century groups, such as black-burnished wares. Therefore a later 1st to early 2nd century date seems secure for this group with, perhaps, a late 1st century bias. Most importantly, this assemblage is of homogenous date and appears to be a single event.

Table 2: Date range of the Roman pottery by context, sherd count and weight.

Date range	Sherds	Weight
L1-E2	129	2795
L1-2C	2	10
1-2C	10	73
2C	5	104
TOTAL	146	2982

### *Condition*

There is a moderate degree of abrasion on the pottery that may be due to the soil conditions or the ditch in which they were found might have been left open, and therefore the pottery would have been weathered. As mentioned above, many of the vessels are very burnt and heavily sooted on the exterior. Most are cooking vessels, but the flagon and mortaria are not usually associated with use over a hearth or brazier, suggesting that the sooting may be the result of a ritual event. The heat had to be relatively fierce in order to produce this level of burning. This degree of sooting could have built up over several uses; equally it might have been the result of a single occasion. Nonetheless it is so severe that the pots would not have been of further use. None of the broken edges are burnt indicating that the vessels were not destroyed by fire.

### **Statement of Potential** (see Tables 3-5, below)

This is clearly an assemblage of importance not only for its intrinsic value, and possible ritual aspect, but it provides well-dated evidence for occupation, albeit transient, in this area from the later 1st to the early 2nd century. Although the distance between this excavation and that of the Roman villa site at Hill Holt Farm, Norton Disney prohibits any direct association, it is worth noting that the Tonge's Farm group is of the same date as the earliest phases of the Hill Holt villa (Oswald, 1937).

The presence of a flagon and mortarium is fairly conclusive evidence for a Roman or certainly Romanised assemblage. Further evidence for Roman, rather than native, occupation is provided by the almost complete but highly fragmented, rusticated, jar in grey ware (Fig 7 No 1). There are probably two further rusticated jars from the group, but consisting of only a few body sherds. This type of jar is of Roman tradition and is frequently found in military assemblages; for example the early military groups in Lincoln and York. A grey ware curve-rimmed jar or bowl with brown surfaces, may also



belong to this group (Fig 7 No 4). Only the rim to shoulder and unrelated body sherds survive, but the neat break along the shoulder suggests a shoulder groove with, perhaps, decoration beneath.

The remaining diagnostic vessels, although wheel made, are derived from native-tradition types. Almost all are cooking pots, including grey ware everted-rim jars or bowls (Fig 7 Nos. 2 and 3 – the latter with horizontal combed decoration), and a native tradition bowl in a cruder fabric with some grog or clay pellets (Fig 7 No 5). Another vessel, a large jar or bowl, is also tempered with grog or clay pellets and would have used for storage (Fig 7 No 6).

Both the flagon and mortarium are in the locally produced Cream ware fabrics noted in Lincoln assemblages. However, the grey wares from this site are different to the ubiquitous grey fabrics found in Lincoln and its environs. Instead they resemble the Trent Valley grey wares, being lighter in colour, with large, rounded quartz grains typical of estuarine material. The pottery identified as grog-tempered consists of similar rounded quartz, but with Jurassic, clay pellets rather than grog, and occasional voids (pers. comm. Dr A G Vince).

*Table 3: The Roman pottery fabrics by context, sherd count and weight.*

Fabric	Code	Sherds	%	Weight	%
Coarse tempered fabric	COAR	2	1.37%	32	1.07%
Cream ware	CR	10	6.85%	113	3.79%
Grey ware	GREY	78	53.42%	912	30.58%
Grog-tempered ware	GROG	42	28.77%	737	24.71%
Grey ware with brown surfaces	GYBN	9	6.16%	239	8.01%
Local mortaria	MOLO	5	3.42%	949	31.82%
	TOTAL	146	100.00%	2982	100.00%

*Table 4: The Roman pottery forms by context, sherd count and weight.*

Form	Code	Sherds	%	Weight	%
Closed form	CLSD	1	0.68%	12	0.40%
Flagon	F	10	6.85%	113	3.79%
Jar or beaker	JBK	3	2.05%	7	0.23%
Jar	J	24	16.44%	460	15.43%
Everted rim jar	JEV	42	28.77%	310	10.10%
Everted rim bowl	JBEV	1	0.68%	39	1.31%
Native tradition bowl	BNAT	38	26.03%	619	20.76%
Curve-rimmed jar or bowl	JBCUR	9	6.16%	239	8.01%

Everted-rimmed jar or bowl	JBEV	8	5.48%	96	3.22%
Large jar or bowl	JBL	5	3.42%	138	4.63%
Hook-rimmed mortaria	MHK	5	3.42%	949	31.82%
	TOTAL	146	100.00%	2982	100.00%

### *Further Work*

It is worth publishing this group, for although it is small it is clearly the result of a single, possibly ritual, event and of good homogenous date. It contains a variety of forms that demonstrate the interface between native-tradition and Roman pottery.

The grey wares, coarse and grog-tempered fabrics, are good representatives of Trent Valley estuarine clays and should be thin-sectioned as part of the reference collection for Lincolnshire.

The vessels selected for illustration should be drawn and inked (see Table 5, below).

Apart from the heavily burnt everted-rimmed, rusticated jar (Fig 7 No 1), the pottery is in stable condition and should be retained for further research.

*Table 5: The Roman pottery drawing list.*

Pub no	Context	Fabric	Form	Dec	No.vess	Dwg. no	Alter	Join	Shs.	Wt
1	1004	GREY	JEV	RUST 1		D2	ABR;SOOTEX	1011?;1040;1048/1054	14	90
1	1040	GREY	JEV	RUST 1		D2	SOOTEX	1004;1011?;1048/1054	7	92
1	1048/1054	GREY	JEV	RUST 1		D2	SOOTEX	1004;1040;1011?	18	107
1	1011	GREY	J	B	1	D2?			2	141
2	1010	GREY	JBEV		1	D5			2	48
3	1048/1054	GREY	JBEV	COL		D6	SOOTEX		1	39
4	1010	GYBN	JBCUR		1	D4	SOOTEX	1043	8	206
4	1043	GYBN	JBCUR	RIB	1	D4	SOOTEX	1010	1	33
5	1021	GROG	BNAT	WM	1	D7			38	619
6	1010	GROG	JBL			D3		1011	3	108
6	1011	GROG	JBL			D3		1010	1	10
7	1004	MOLO	MHK		1	D1	SOOTRE		5	949

### *References*

- Oswald, A., 1937 A Roman fortified villa at Norton Disney, Lincolnshire, *Antiq. J.*, 17, 138-78.

Context	Fabric	Form	Dec	Novess	Dwg no	Alter	Comments	Join	Shs	Wt
1004	GREY	JRUST	RLIN	1	D2	ABR;SOO	BSS; VBURN;AS IN	1010;1011	14	90
1004	MOLO	MHK		1	D1	SOOTRE	RIM BASE PROF;MIX Q +FE TRITS;FE FAB L1-E2		5	949
1004	ZDATE									
1004	ZZZ									
1010	CR	F					MORT POSS BROKEN THEN BURNT	1014	1	52
1010	GREY	J					BS; SAME FAB		1	3
1010	GREY	J					BS		1	19
1010	GREY	J	RNOD?			ABR	BS		1	3
1010	GREY	JBK				ABR	BS FE DEPOSIT		1	48
1010	GREY	JBEV			D5	ABR	RIM THICK UPPER WALL BS		2	21
1010	GREY	JEV	RUST	1		ABR	BSS; DIFF TO DWG 2		3	48
1010	GREY	JBEV		1			RIM BSS; Q IN SILT		6	108
1010	GROG	JBL			D3		RIM BSS	1011	3	206
1010	GYBN	JBCUR			D4	SOOTEX	RIM GIRTH; JOINS	1043	8	51
1010	ZDATE						L1-E2		1	141
1011	GREY	J					BASE; TRENT VALLEY FAB 24G;FS		2	10
1011	GREY	J	B	1	D2?		FTMS J 100%; SAME FAB AS J RLIN		1	61
1011	GROG	JBL			D3		BS W GROG/CLAY PELLETS; AS IN L1-E2	1010	9	
1014	CR	F				SOOTEX	BSS J; CHIP; ABR; SAME FAB	1010	2	
1014	ZDATE						1-2C		7	
1014	ZZZ						CR ONLY; PROB 50-120		1	
1017	GREY	J				ABR	BSS BASAL; TRENT VALLY		2	69
1017	ZDATE						L1-2C		1	2
1021	GREY	J				ABR	FTM BSS		38	
1021	GREY	JBK				VABR	BS FE STAIN		1	
1021	GREY	BFL	WM		D7		RIMS BSS LWR WALL;FE STAIN		1	12
1021	GROG						L1-E2		3	14
1037	COAR	CLSD	RIB			SOOTEX	BS; CF 1043 D4;FE STAIN		7	92
1037	ZDATE						1-2C		5	104
1040	GREY	J				ABR	BSS J; FINE Q OCC LGE Q		2	49
1040	GREY	JEV	RLIN	1	D2	SOOTEX	RIMS GIRTH BSS; VBURN;AS IN L1-E2	1004;1010	1	2
1040	ZDATE								1	33
1042	GREY	J					BSS INC FS 8G		1	20
1042	ZDATE						2C		1	39
1043	GREY	J				ABR	BASE BS		2	
1043	GREY	JBK					BS THIN		1	
1043	GYBN	JBCUR	RIB	1	D4	SOOTEX	RIM GIRTH;FS TRENT VALLEY JOINS L1-E2	1010	1	
1043	ZDATE								1	
1048/1054	COAR	JBL				SOOTIN	BS W GROG/CLAY PELLETS		1	
1048/1054	GREY	BEV	COL		D6	SOOTEX	RIM SHLDR		1	

**APPENDIX 3**

APPENDIX 3

Post-Roman Pottery Archive List NDTF03

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services 09 May 2003

context	cname	full name	form type	sherds	weight	part	date
1007	ENGS	Unspecified English Stoneware	bottle	1	29	BS	19th to 20th
1045	BL	Black-glazed wares	bowel	1	11	BS	17th to 18th

**APPENDIX 4**

## APPENDIX 4

### Tile Archive NDTF03

Jane Young Lindsey Archaeological Services 09 May 2003

context	cname	full name	frags	weight	description	date
0104	BRK	Brick	1	62	? Handmade post-med or Roman	Roman or post-medieval
1007	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1	20	Coarse fabric; corner	13 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup>
1020	RTMISC	Roman or post-Roman tile	1	56	thin tile	Roman or medieval
1026	RBRK	Roman brick	1	192		Roman
1045	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge tile	1	99	flat roofer	13 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup>
1045	PNR	Peg, nib or ridge	1	25	flat roofer	13 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup>

**APPENDIX 5**



## NDTF03

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeological Services WYAS were commissioned by Lindsey Archaeological Services to undertake the analysis of two soil samples from site NDTF03.

### 2. Method

- 2.1 Two soil samples of twenty litres were subjected to a system of flotation in an Ankara-style flotation tank. The floating remains (the flot) were collected in a 300 $\mu$ m sieve and the heavy fraction (the retent) was collected in a 1mm mesh. The flots, once dry, were scanned using a binocular microscope and the results are presented below. The retents were scanned by eye for both ecofacts and artefacts.

### 3. Results

#### Flot samples

- 3.1 Contamination of both samples by modern plant fibres was noted, and modern weed seeds of *Chenopodium* sp., and *Rumex* sp. were recorded.
- 3.2 Wood charcoal fragments were identified from both samples but in small numbers and of insufficient size to be identified to genus.

#### Retent samples

- 3.3 No ecofacts or artefacts (including magnetic material) were recovered from the retents and the inorganic remains were subsequently discarded.

### 4. Conclusions

- 4.1 With the exception of a few charcoal fragments, the two soil samples produced no ecofact material of any significance. No artefacts were retrieved.

Table 1. Results from the flot samples

Context number	Sample number	Flot volume	Charcoal		Uncharred plant	Comments
			qty.	large frags.		
1024	2	5ml	+		+++	modern <i>Chenopodium</i> sp. and <i>Rumex</i> sp.
1026	1	30ml	+		++++	modern <i>Chenopodium</i> sp.

Key : += rare (1-5), ++ = occasional (6-10), +++ = common (11-50), ++++ = abundant (>50), \* = sufficient charred material for AMS date

**THE FIGURES**

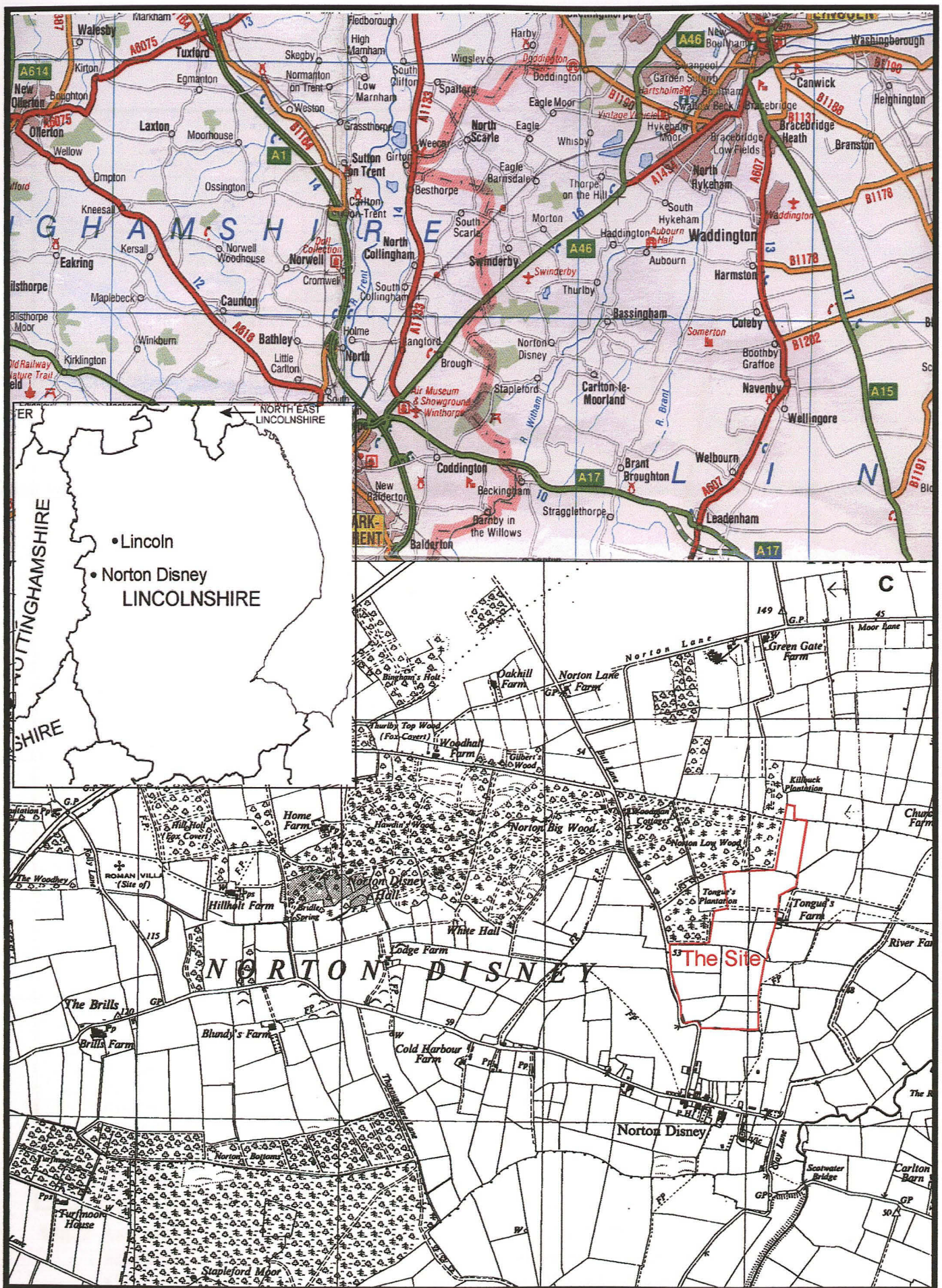
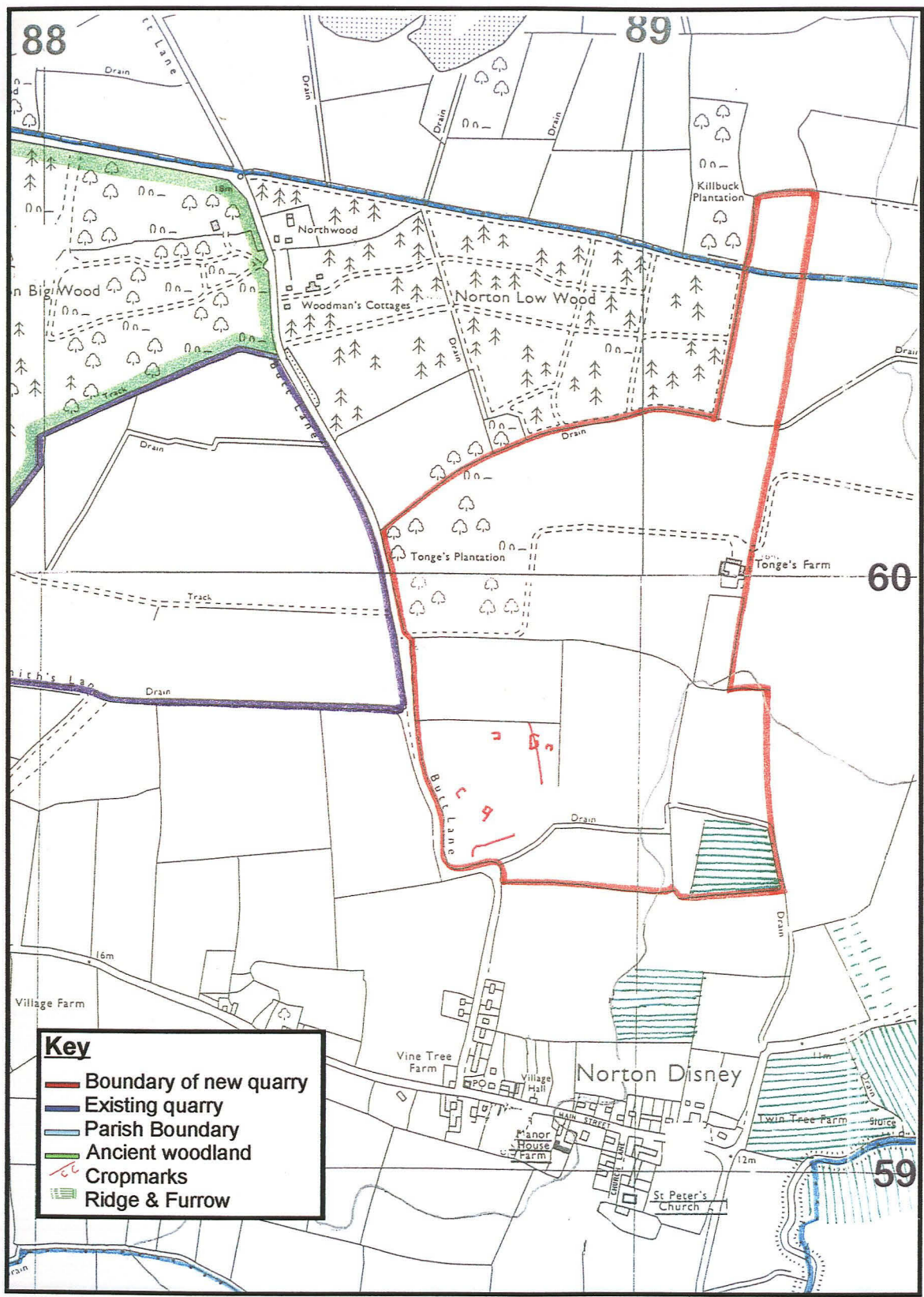


Fig.1 Location of Norton Disney plan (inset c based on the 1953 Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map Sheets SK 85 and SK 86).



**Fig. 2** Location of the proposed Tonge's Farm Quarry, showing the position of recorded archaeological features in the vicinity. (Reproduced with minor alterations from OAA 1999. Based on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,000 map Sheets SK 86 SE and SK 85 NE. Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO. LAS Licence No. AL 10002165).

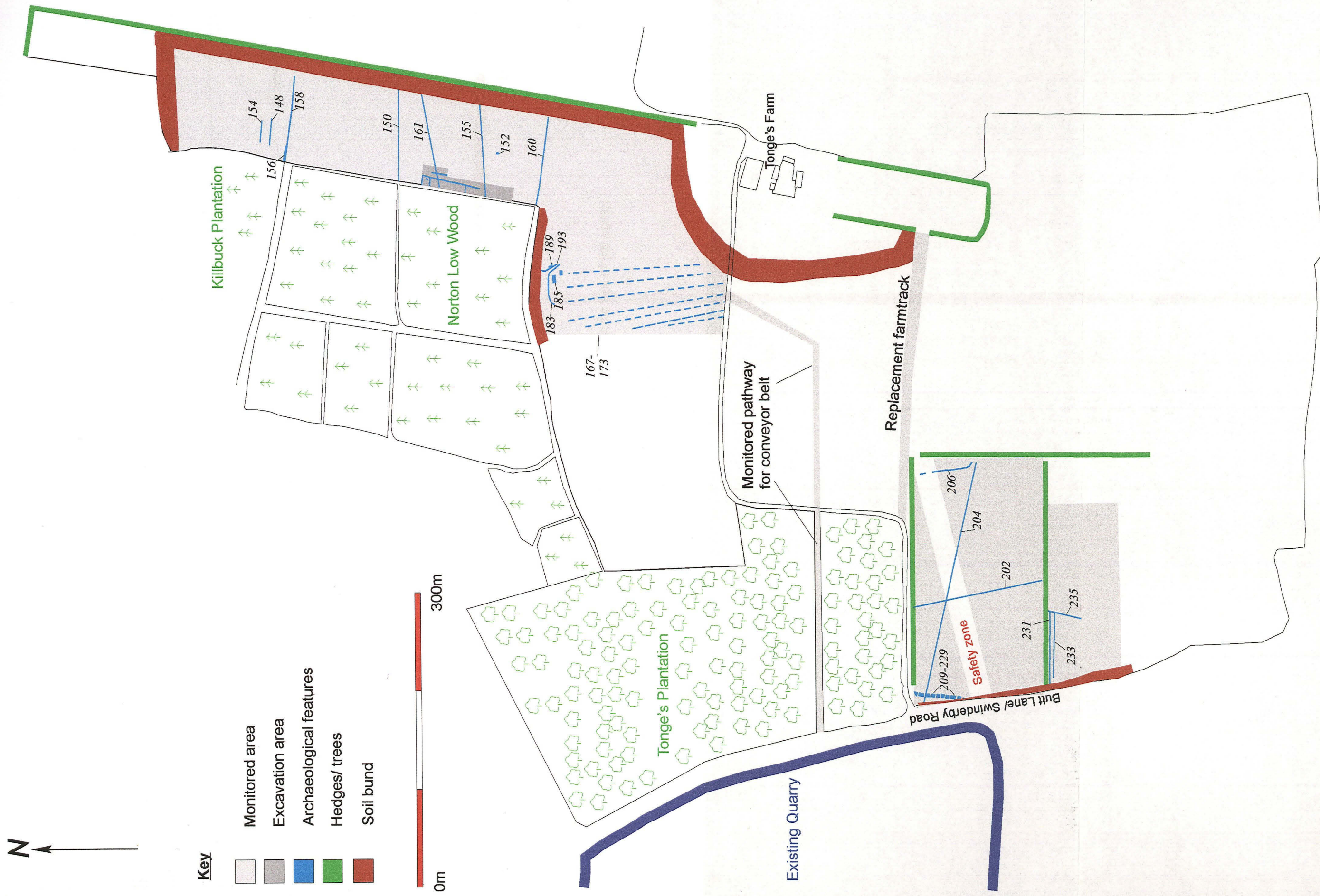


Fig. 3 Location of the areas of the 2003 watching brief and excavation (Rowlandson).



**Fig. 4** Section across the backfilled ditches 158 and 156, on the line of the parish boundary (Rowlandson, after McCarthy).

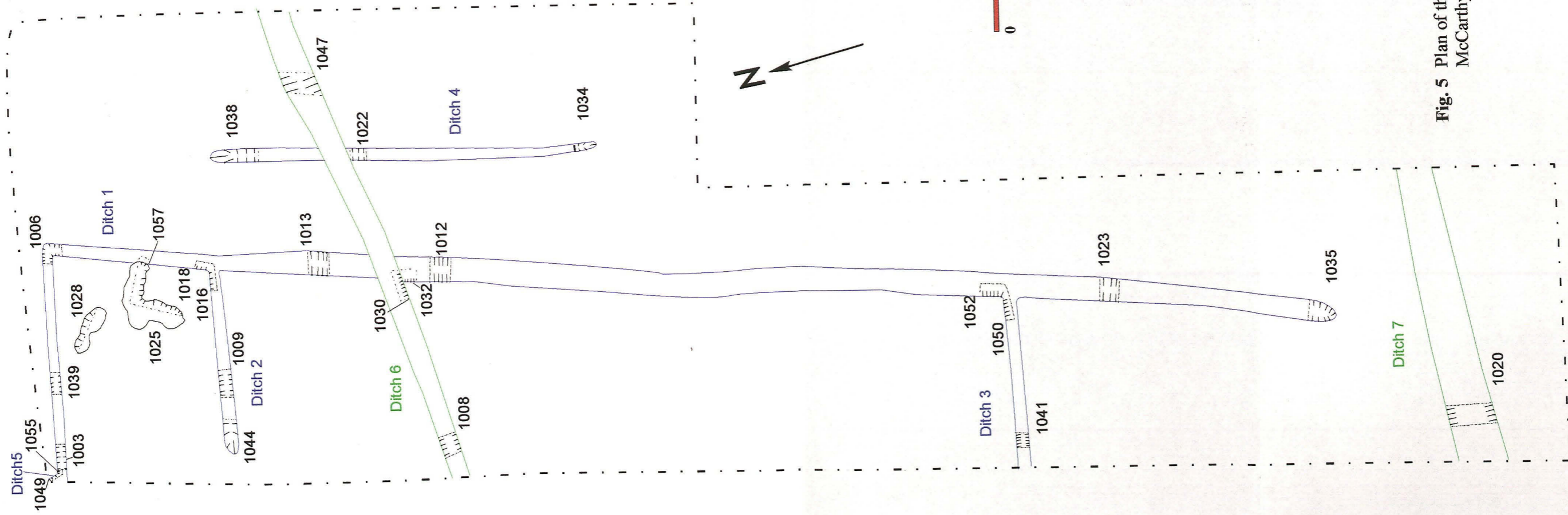


Fig. 5 Plan of the excavation area, showing archaeological features (Rowlandson, after McCarthy).

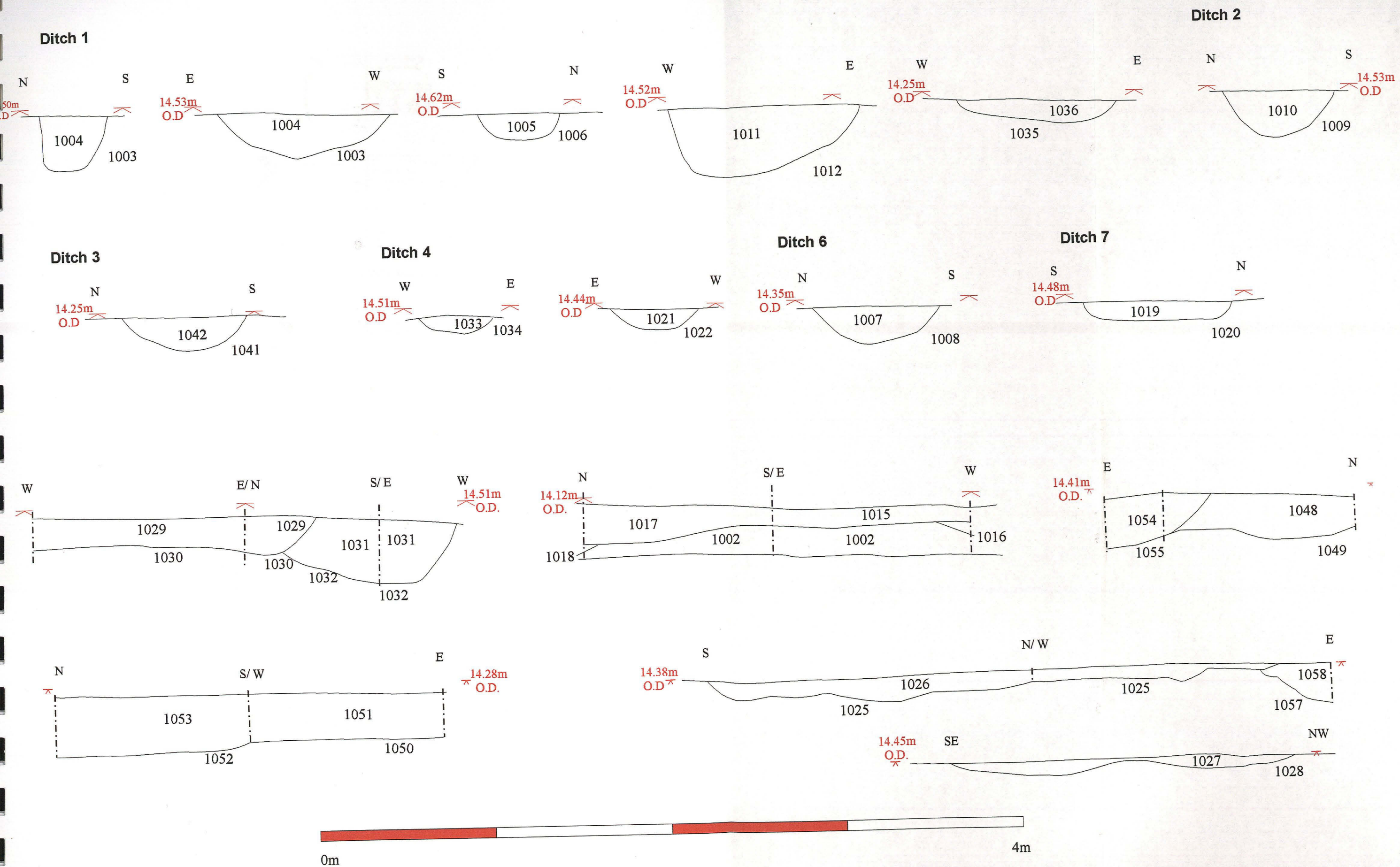


Fig. 6 Sections across archaeological features within the excavation area (Rowlandson, after Harris, McCarthy, and Slater).



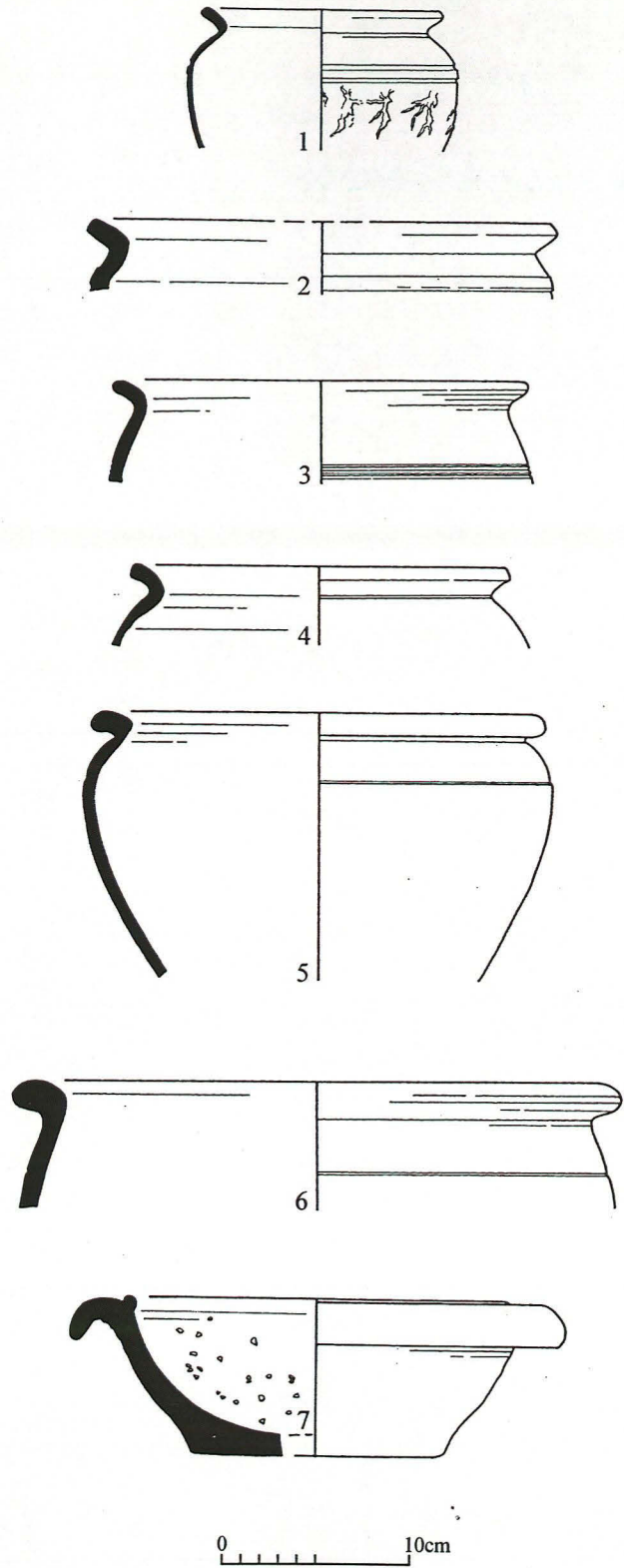


Fig. 7 The Roman Pottery, quarter actual size (C. Bentley).

**THE PLATES**



**Pl. 1** The darker clayier soil marks backfilled modern ditch **160** (looking NW across the field east of Norton Low Wood at the start of topsoil removal).



**Pl. 2** Lime concentration **152, 153** east of Norton Low Wood (looking west).



**Pl. 3** At the edge of Norton Low Wood, the parish boundary is marked by an open ditch (looking west).



**Pl. 4** Dark soil marking a recently backfilled ditch 158 along the line of the parish boundary (looking west).



**Pl. 5** Edge of the quarry, NE of Norton Low Wood, showing the backfilled ditches at the parish boundary (looking west).



**Pl. 6** West-east aligned backfilled feature 154 and 156, to the north of the Norton Disney parish boundary (looking west, red/white scale 1m).



**Pl. 7** Section across backfilled linear feature 156 (looking west; horizontal scale 1m, vertical 0.3m).



**Pl. 8** Grey soil fill of ditch 1003, looking south beside Norton Low Wood.



**Pl. 9** Position of ditch 1003, looking south beside Norton Low Wood.



**Pl. 10** Section excavated across ditch 1003, showing part of a Roman mortaria in the ditch fill (looking west).



**Pl. 11** Monitored area to the south of Norton Low Wood (looking NW).



**Pl. 12** Stripes of grey soil south of Norton Low Wood are the remains of medieval or post medieval plough furrows (looking south).





**Pl. 13** Grey soil fill of backfilled ditches and trenches to the south of Norton Low Wood (looking SE).



**Pl. 14** Machine-excavated section across backfilled pit 181 (looking west).



**Pl. 15** Field to the south of Tonge's Plantation, prior to topsoil removal (looking south).



**Pl.16** Curvilinear feature 206, at the eastern edge of the field to the south of Tonge's Plantation (looking south).



**Pl. 17** Second field south of Tonge's Plantation, after top soil removal (looking NW).



**Pl. 18** Path through Tonge's Plantation stripped for the quarry conveyor (looking east).



**Pl. 19** Location of the excavation area, looking NW towards Norton Low Wood.



**Pl. 20** Northern end of the excavation area, pre-excavation, looking north.



**Pl. 21** Dark fill of *Ditches 3* (left) and *1* after topsoil stripping (looking north).



**Pl. 22** Southern terminal of *Ditch 1*, segment 1035, looking NE. Horizontal scale 1m.



Pl. 23 *Ditch 1*, segment 1039 looking east. Scale 1m.



Pl. 24 *Ditch 2*, segment 1009, looking east. Scales 1m and 2m.



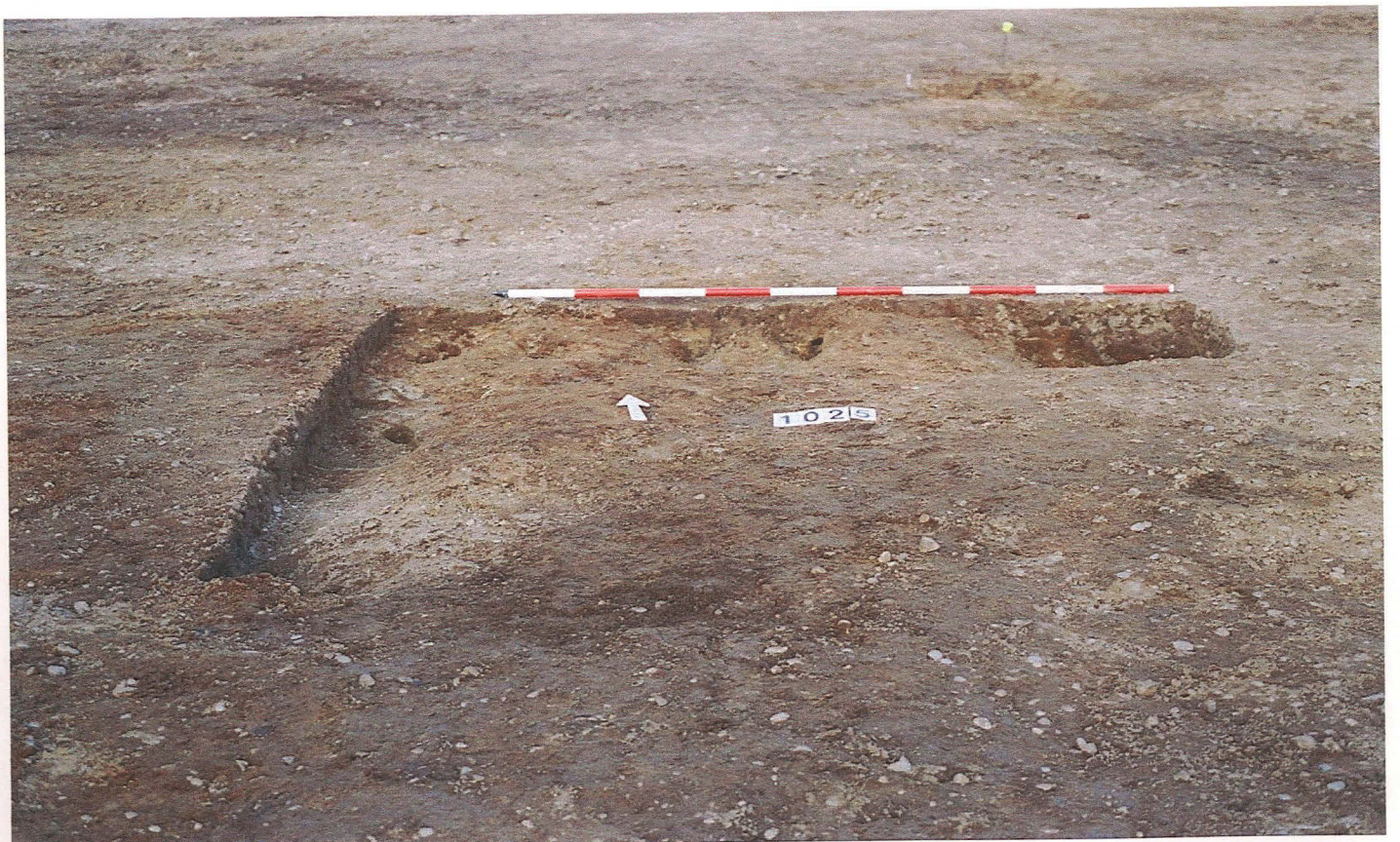
Pl. 25 *Ditch 3*, segment 1041, looking east.



Pl. 26 *Ditch 6*, segment 1008, looking east. Scales 1m and 2m.



Pl. 27 *Ditch 6*, segment 1047, looking west. Horizontal scale 2m.



Pl. 28 Fragments of bone, possibly human, were found on the surface at 1025 but no graves were identified. (Looking north. Scale 2m).